Subject: RELEASE: Councilmember Englander Introduces Legislation Criminalizing the Possession, Download, or Distribution of 3D Printed Weaponry
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- August 3, 2018

Councilmember Englander Introduces Legislation Criminalizing the Possession, Download, or

Distribution of 3D Printed Weaponry

Councilmember Englander introduced legislation today that would make the possession, download, or distribution of blueprint files for 3D printed weaponry a misdemeanor offense in the City of Los Angeles. He also introduced a resolution calling on the State of California to make these same activities a felony under state law.

"As Chair of the City's Public Safety Committee, it's my job to ensure that dangerous weapons do not inundate our streets," Councilmember Englander said. "With the emergence of technology expanding the accessibility of such weapons it is important that policy makers craft legislation to counter these emerging threats."

Under the Undetectable Firearms Act, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, it is illegal for anyone to manufacture, possess, sell, or distribute a firearm of any kind if it can't be detected by a metal detector. This makes all 3D printed firearms illegal as they can be made solely of plastic material.

In 2016, California passed a law requiring individuals who make 3D printed firearms to apply for a serial number from the Department of Justice as well as legislation mandating that 3D printed firearms contain a piece of stainless steel, which essentially would allow 3D printed firearms to comply with the federal Undetectable Firearms Act.

In an effort to comply with this law, many blueprints of 3D firearms contain detailed instructions on how to add a metal piece as part of the design, which enables the weapon to be in compliance with Federal law. However, this law does not stipulate which parts of the firearm must be metal, and so it could simply be a non-essential component that, once removed, would leave the firearm operable and undetectable by metal detectors. Because of this adaptation, these laws are not effective in curtailing the manufacturing of 3D printed firearms. This simple workaround enables the firearm to be in compliance with the federal and state law, but is still undoubtedly a danger to the public by being able to easily evade metal detection and maintain the firearm's operational ability.

Given the ineffectiveness of current regulations and the existence of countless blueprints for 3D printable firearms already online, the City of Los Angeles must take the steps necessary in order to effectively prohibit and/or regulate 3D printed firearms in the City. This legislation seeks to establish an ordinance which prohibits and/or regulates the possession and use of both the 3D printed firearms as well as the blueprints that contain the instructions for said firearms.

Copies of the motion and resolution are attached.

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Attachments:

3D Printed Firearm Legislation.pdf 137 KB